

SERC Meeting

August 20, 2002

4:00 p.m.

Stephen Kappa began the meeting at 4:00 pm, a quorum was present, for those in attendance see attached roster. The minutes of June 3, 2002 were reviewed. Mr. Kappa asked for corrections, deletions or additions. Rudy Raynes requested two corrections; under Training Sub-committee Sgt. McCallister should be Lt. McCallister and on the last page August 18 should be August 20th. *Matt Musgrave made a motion to accept the minutes, Jim Riggs seconded. Motion passed.*

Old Business:

DOJ Grants -Mr. Kappa asked Neal Sharp to report on the progress of DOJ Grants. Mr. Sharp reported 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002 have been sent to DOJ and are approved, giving WV approximately 5.5 million to purchase equipment for WMD response teams. The state is divided into 6 regions and will have 6 regional response teams. Within those teams 17 Fire Departments from across the state will be represented. Mr. Sharp said he had received an enormous amount of help from the Advisory Panel, the panel is also working hard to devise an accreditation process for interested individuals who wish to be on a response team. In addition to regional response teams, state agencies will also be receiving funding. State Police, Fire Marshal offices will receive bomb mitigation equipment, DEP and Capitol Police is scheduled to receive equipment. Mutual Aid Agreements are being researched and will hopefully be implemented shortly. Mr. Sharp will be meeting with Lee Gray (Administration) to lay the ground work for bid packages to vendors. Mr. Kappa said one of the challenges in our strategy is making sure everyone understands the purpose of the DOJ grant. This grant is not available to purchase equipment for fire departments, or to develop hazmat capability but to develop a WMD capability and response throughout WV.

HMEP Grants - Rudy Raynes reported the sub-committee met on August 12th at the EOC on projects submitted for 2003. The sub-committee approved \$74,666.80, 16 LEPC's grant applications have been approved, although several were reduced in scope due to US DOT guidelines. *Rudy Raynes made a motion to approve the sub-committee's recommendations. Richard Jarvis seconded. Motion passed.*

SERC Grants- All LEPCs have been reactivated according to the Auditors Office except for one; Mason County has not sent in a W9. We have also received a request by Grant County for their SERC Grant; unfortunately they have not submitted By-Laws and are not eligible. A letter will be sent explaining the requirements and the grant application will be held until Grant County LEPC is able to comply with SERC requirements.

Plan Reviews - Paul Howard reported he has two plans he is reviewing - he has finished Tucker County and their initial 13 requirements and is reviewing 9 other

criteria listed in their plan. He will report back to the SERC at the next meeting on the other plan.

LEPC Membership Approvals - None

By-Laws -Pendleton and Barbour LEPCs have submitted By-laws however they are missing a few items and will be tabled until they are complete.

Training Subcommittee -Jim Cox reported the committee is continuing to assess training needs and is working with Neal Sharp on the accreditation process possibly using HMEP, Terrorism or DOJ funds to assist in the process. Currently WVU and RESA provide training to 1st responders in the state but we are reviewing who and how 1st responder training will be conducted. Mr. Kappa also asked Jim Cox to explain a program at Bluefield State College we are implementing. Mr. Cox stated Bluefield State College will be offering Associate and eventually Bachelor degrees in Emergency Management. OES will review curriculum, structure of classes and classes which may be offered at EMI and other venues, permitting the college to accept those courses as college credits. Mr. Kappa stated this will help the next generation we're bringing on and trying to mentor and will build upon their credentials. Shirley Lawson asked if Mr. Cox could find out from Bluefield if a double major in emergency management is going to be offered.

Other New Business -Mike Agee from Dow Chemical is retiring and is unsure who will be replacing him on the Board, Mr. Agee represents industry. Lt. McCallister is also being reassigned so Lt. Barnette will be our representative for the State Police. Lt. Barnette explained there may be some additional changes within the State Police and he may not be on the board long.

Mr. Kappa asked for a report on the 2003 SERC conference. Laverne Stout reported several sites in Morgantown, Parkersburg have been examined. Wheeling is the next area to be reviewed and Canaan Valley Resort has contacted OES asking if we would review their facility for a possible location for 2003. 8 sites have been visited and we have another 3 to examine, it is difficult to find facilities to accommodate our group. Mr. Kappa asked if Stonewall Jackson has been considered. Laverne stated Stonewall is very nice but unfortunately their quotes are beyond the budget we have for our conference unless you wish to change the parameters of the conference, i.e. charge a registration fee, reduce the amount to be paid to participants or reduce the number of days in the conference. Mr. Kappa asked if there was any enthusiasm for those suggestions and the response from the group was no. Mr. Kappa stated a concern of the group are the Tier Two fees set originally in 1993. Laverne stated 2-3 years ago Dave Wheatcraft, Rudy Raynes, Giles Watson met to discuss the feasibility of increasing Tier Two fees. At the present time fees are minimum of \$25, maximum of \$100. The determination was the fees should be raised to a minimum of \$100 and a maximum of \$400. At present we expend more in administrative fees, grants and matching funds than we take in, eventually the pot we have will be expended and our program will be running in

the red. Mr. Kappa suggested we table this discussion until next meeting.

Jim Riggs moved to adjourn, Rudy Raynes seconded, Motion passed. Meeting ended at 5:00 pm. Next scheduled meeting will be October 22, 2002 at the EOC in Charleston, WV.